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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Thomas J. Nelson

Serial No.: 09/661,705

Filed: September 14, 2000

Title: MULTIDIRECTIONAL PANELS

Group Art Unit: 3635

Examiner: Dorsey, D.

Docket No.: 068368.0131

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12/3/01
T.M.Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, Virginia 22202RECEIVED
DEC 03 2001
GROUP 3600

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202.

Laura D. Crane
NameNovember 21, 2001
Date

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED AUGUST 27, 2001

In response to the Office Action mailed August 27, 2001, applicant submits the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/20706 granted to Olofsson et al. A telephone interview was conducted on September 18, 2001, with Examiner Dorsey. The interview resulted in a rejection of claims 1-25 under 35 USC 102(a) in view of WO 00/20706 granted to Olofsson et al. In particular, it is asserted that Olofsson et al teaches the limitations of the above claims including at least two flooring panels (1) with a top surface (3), bottom surface (5), middle substrate, side edge grooves, and channels on the bottom surfaces. A further premise of the rejection is that the reference teaches the method of connecting the panels with a connector. This rejection is respectfully traversed.